



News Release

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Department of Education Receives Approval For *No Child Left Behind* Grant \$667 Million On The Way To Michigan

The Department of Education announced today that it has received full approval from the U.S. Department of Education for its \$667 million Consolidated Grant Application.

Michigan was one of the first states in the nation to have its application approved by the federal government.

The competitive Consolidated State application is an expression of the key principles of President George W. Bush's education reform plan for stronger accountability, increased state and local flexibility, expanded choices for parents, and an emphasis on teaching methods that work in the classroom.

"Our staff, with input from key business and educational stakeholders, put countless hours of work into this application, and more than a million Michigan children will now receive the benefit of their tireless efforts," said Tom Watkins, Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction. "It's a marvelous accomplishment for the Department of Education and the state of Michigan."

Michigan used the Consolidated Grant Application process to reduce "red tape" and create collaboration between the state and local educational programming in several areas, including Title 1, Even Start, Education of Migrant Children, Title II - Teacher Quality, and Safe and Drug-Free Schools programming.

"Once again, Michigan is leading the nation in its efforts to truly lift up our schools, teachers, and students," said Kathleen Straus, State Board of Education President.

Full funding for the application is now immediately available to the Department of Education. As per federal requirement, the state will now begin full-fledged collaboration with key educational stakeholders, the business community, and local units of government to formulate an action plan for the grant monies.